

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been amended, and are the only claims presently at issue.

The presently amended specification meets the requirements of 35 USC §112, ¶1, and describes the presently claimed invention in "full, clear, concise and exact terms" (§112, ¶1). Further, with the amendments to the specification, the scope of claims 1 and 2 is expressly recited therein, and thus claims 1-8 are enabled by this disclosure. Amended claims 1-5 now conform to US practice, and are not indefinite. Finally, claims 6-7 have been amended, and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the applicant's invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants consider that the rejections of record have been obviated and respectfully solicit passage of the application to issue.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE  
IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph found on page 1, at lines 5-9, to read as follows:

Elastic tapes are often employed in the field of medicine for immobilizing and stiffening. In accordance with German Patent DE 197 24 441 C2 (equivalent to US Patent 6,015,379, incorporated herein by reference), for example, a stiffening tape is [also] used for improving cohabitation capability. However, the stiffening possibilities described therein entail considerable costs in production.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 1-2 to read as follows:

Figure 1 shows a longitudinal section through a portion of the elastic tape according to the invention. The embodiment of the invention in accordance with Figure 1 shows an elastic tape comprised of a denser structure (2) [2] and a more open structure (1) [1]. The stiffening strip (3) [3] is seated on the open surface (1) [1], and its extensions (4) [4] have penetrated the loose portion (1) [1] of the elastic tape and solidly adhere to it.

Please amend the paragraph found on page 2, at lines 5-13, to read as follows:

In accordance with the present invention [claims 1 and 2], a homogenous mass, preferably an adhesive, is applied in beads transversely to the longitudinal direction of the tape which, when applied, makes a solid connection with the tape, and then obtains

its required solidity by means of a curing process. Further in [In] accordance with the present invention [claims 2 to 6], this can be an adhesive which cures in a period of time sufficient for production and which[, in accordance with claim 7.] is well tolerated when in contact with the human skin. The adhesive may, further, be a so-called 2-component adhesive, may cure through the action of UV radiation, or may cure by means of a temperature change. One of skill in the art may glean further [Further] advantages and characteristics of the invention [can be taken] from the [further dependent claims, to whose contents specific reference is made here, as well as from the] drawings and the associated description given above.

Please enter the following paragraphs at line 14 of page 2:

One embodiment of the present invention is a longitudinally elastic tape having a transverse stiffening strip (3) which does not essentially hamper elasticity. The transverse stiffening strip (3) consists of a homogenous material which forms a solid connection with the surface (1) of the elastic tape, which and has been applied as a liquid in the form of beads. The elastic property of the tape is still sufficiently preserved.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a longitudinally elastic tape as described above, where the homogenous material of the stiffening strip (3) consists of an adhesive, which is applied in liquid form. In the process, the liquid adhesive makes a firm connection with the elastic tape, either by adhering to the surface, or by penetrating at least one extension (4) into the loose surface structure (1) of the elastic

tape. The liquid adhesive thereafter obtains the required solid properties by curing.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-8 to read as follows:

1. A longitudinally elastic tape[, elastic in the longitudinal direction and] having a transverse stiffening strip (3), which [essentially] does not essentially hamper elasticity, wherein [characterized in that] the transverse stiffening strip (3) [3] consists of a homogenous material, which forms a solid connection with the surface (1) [1] of the elastic tape and has been applied in the form of beads, so that the elastic property of the tape is still sufficiently preserved.
  
2. The elastic tape as claimed in [accordance with] claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] the stiffening material of the stiffening strip (3) [3] consists of an adhesive, which is applied in liquid form, [in the process] makes a firm connection with the elastic tape, either by adhering to the surface or by the penetration of at least one extension (4) [4] into the [a] loose surface structure (1) [1] of the elastic tape, and which thereafter obtains its required more solid properties by curing.
  
3. The tape as claimed in [accordance with] claim 2, wherein [characterized in that] the adhesive is a so-called 2-component adhesive.

4. The tape as claimed in [accordance with] claim 2, wherein [characterized in that] the adhesive is an adhesive which is cured by UV radiation.
5. The tape as claimed in [accordance with] claim 2, wherein [characterized in that] the adhesive is an adhesive which is cured by means of a temperature change.
6. The tape as claimed in [accordance with] claim 2, wherein [characterized in that] the adhesive is an adhesive which [was not yet mentioned in the above claims and which, by means of its properties,] cures within a period of time sufficient for production.
7. The tape as claimed in [accordance with] claim 2, wherein [characterized in that] the adhesive [is well tolerated by humans and] does not cause injuries to humans.
8. The tape as claimed in [accordance with] claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] the adhesive penetrates through the tape completely.